

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1938

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D, M.B., B.Ch, D.P.H., who in addition holds the posts of M.O.H. Calne Borough, M.O.H. Calne and Chippenham R.D.C., and Assistant C.M.O. Wilts.

(b) Public Vaccinator.

GEO. LAURENCE, F.R.C.S.E.

(c) Vaccination Officer.

MISS JEFFREY, 26, Station Road, Corsham.

(d) Sanitary Inspector.

S. F. FRENCH, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute, and Meat and other Foods Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Chippenham Town Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my First Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

Owing to the demands of Air Raid Precautions organisation it is to be regretted that the report is not nearly so full as one might desire. The normal activities of my department have been seriously curtailed. I should like to thank Mr. French for his valuable assistance, both in his ordinary duties and in Air Raid Precautions arrangements.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	1,197
Population (1938)	...	...	10,120
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1938, according to Rate Books)	...	...	3,229
Rateable Value	...	...	£63,128
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£248

The general social condition is satisfactory. The population has been increased by an influx of employees and their dependents of the Westinghouse Brake & Signal Co., Ltd.

There is very little unemployment in the town,

EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

In my capacity of Assistant County Medical Officer I am asked on occasions to certify school children as fit to undertake employment before or after school hours. It has been found that those cases examined are often the least fit for this employment as they are children of the poorer population or are members of large families, with some consequent under-nutrition. The additional burden of work before or after school is, in my opinion, bound to show detrimental results and this applies even to a healthy and well-nourished child.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1938 ARE:—

	TOTAL	M	F	
Live Births—Legitimate	159	80	79	{ Birth Rate 16.1
Illegitimate	4	0	4	
Still Births ...	5	4	1	{ Rate per 1000 total births 30
Deaths ...	90	47	43	
Deaths from Puerperal causes:				{ Death Rate 7.2
Puerperal sepsis	0			
Other Puerperal causes	0			
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:				
All infants per 1000 live births				30.6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births				31.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				0.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				1
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)				0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				0
	1938	1937	1936	1935
Deaths from Influenza	0	8	1	1
" " Respiratory Diseases				
(19, 20, 21)	10	6	7	5
" " Diseases of Heart				
and Blood Vessels				
(15, 16, 17, 18)	31	41	36	47
" " Cancer	9	11	20	12

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided at Salisbury Infirmary by the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For Infectious Diseases. Chippenham Isolation Hospital garage their own Ambulance adjoining the Hospital premises.

(b) For non-infectious and Accident Cases the Town Council have their own Ambulance Application for its use should be made to the Matron, Chippenham and District Hospital, Tel. No. Chippenham 2231.

The ambulance services are adequate for this area and no trouble has been experienced over their co-ordination.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have been no changes in these services which are as previously described.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Infant Welfare Centre. This is held in the Church Hall at 2 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

There have been no changes made in the other Treatment Centres and Clinics available for this area.

Cancer Clinics :—

(a) Trowbridge—At 11.30 a.m. at The Halve on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

(b) Swindon—At 11.0 a.m. at the Victoria Hospital on the first Thursday of the month.

V.D. Clinics :—

	Male	Female
(a) Isolation Hospital Swindon	Every Wed. 6.30 p.m. Every Fri. 6 p.m.	Mon. at 5 p.m. Fri. at 2 p.m.

(b) The Halve Trowbridge
Every Thurs. 5.30 p.m. Tues. at 5 p.m.

Tuberculosis :— The nearest Clinic is held at The Halve, Trowbridge, on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. when cases can be seen by the County Tuberculosis Officer,

HOSPITALS.

Medical and Surgical	...	Chippenham & District Hospital London Road
Infectious Disease		Isolation Hospital in Rural District
Maternity	...	No Borough Maternity Home. There are two private Nursing Homes which receive maternity cases.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

To supply water to newly developed areas, the following lengths of coated cast iron mains have been laid :

6 in. Diameter Mains—

Greenway Lane	...	250 yards
---------------	-----	-----------

4 in. Diameter Mains—

Hardenhuish Estate	...	400 yards
Birch Grove	...	300 yards
Oaklands	...	220 yards
Ashe Crescent	...	300 yards
Elmwood	...	200 yards
Maple Way	...	50 yards
Plantation Road	...	200 yards
Chestnut Road	...	75 yards
Park Avenue	...	210 yards

Quality—

It was not necessary to take action in respect to any form of contamination.

Routine quarterly examinations of the water are carried out. Samples were obtained from the distribution system at the points and dates given below.

From High Street, 29th March, 1938

Sheldon Road, 13th July, 1938

High Street, 21st September, 1938

Rowden Road, 9th January, 1939

A fair average analysis is given below :

*Bacteriological Analysis of Water, Chippenham
Water Supply.*

July, 18th, 1933.

Sample taken from Sheldon Road High Level Area, from C. Ronald Phillips, Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer, Chippenham.

Sample received on 13th July, 1933.

Organisms on Gelatine at 22 degrees C	...	0 per c.c.
Organisms liquefying Gelatine	...	0 per c.c.
Organisms on Agar at 37 degrees C	...	0 per c.c.
B. Coli	...	absent from 100 c.c.
B. Welchii	...	absent
Streptococci	...	absent

This water is in excellent condition and appears to be quite sterile.

(Signed) HAROLD F. BARKE,
34, Park Row, Public Analyst,
Bristol.

Analysis of Water, Chippenham Water Supply.

January 9th, 1939.

Sample taken from Rowden Road, High Level Area from C. Ronald Phillips, Borough Surveyor and Engineer, Chippenham.

Chemical Analysis.

	Parts per 100,000
Saline Ammonia	.. 0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	... 0038
Nitrogen as Nitrate	... 065
Nitrites	... absent
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80 degrees F	... 022
Chlorine as Chloride	... 1.8
Dissolved Solids	... 47.0
Earthy Carbonates	... 27.5
Earthy Salts not Carbonates	... 5.0
Hardness	... 33.5
Poisonous Metals	... Absent
Sediment	... nil

Quantity

The quantity of water available at the boreholes at the Ivy Fields Pumping Station remains almost constant and the reserve available in pumping plant and sources is satisfactory.

The daily average quantity of water supplied by the undertaking for all purposes is about 500,000 galls. per day, but this is, and will be, increasing as the Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council's Regional Water Scheme progresses towards completion, to which the Town Council have undertaken to supply water in bulk.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Although the sewerage system has been extended to serve new houses in a similar order to the extensions to the water distribution system, only a few of the following sewers laid during the year have been declared public sewers in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936.

LOCATION	SIZE	LENGTH
Langley Road, Greenway Lane	12 in.	600 yards
Greenway Lane Housing Site	9 in.	300 yards
Elmwood and Maple Way	12 in.	100 yards
Birch Grove	9 in.	100 yards
Hardenhuish Estate	12 in.	620 yards
Plantation Road	12 in.	200 yards

Westmead Sewage Works.

During the year a scheme for the extension of these works has been submitted to the Council by the Borough Engineer upon which a second opinion was obtained from F. Wilkinson, Esq., Consulting Engineer of London. This scheme is now being considered by the Ministry of Health as an application for loan to carry out the works proposed.

Patterdown Sewage Works.

These works have been maintained with little trouble throughout the year.

Public Cleansing.

Following a visit by the Salvage Inspector of the Ministry of Health, and a letter from the Ministry advising a better method of refuse disposal, the Council at their meeting held in December, 1938, decided to undertake controlled tipping at the Bath Road Refuse Tip

This work has been carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department since January, 1939. The tip has been rid of the nuisance of rats, flies and smells, and much good work is being done in reclaiming the low lying land of the area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No special action was taken.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversion from pail to W.C.'s	...	7
Number of pail Closets remaining	...	7

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) The number and nature of inspections by Sanitary Inspector.

Housing and Nuisances	...	524
Overcrowding	...	24
Meat and Slaughterhouses	...	1049
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	22
Bakehouses, Workshops etc.	...	26
Common Lodging Houses	...	5
In connection with Infectious Diseases		31

(b) Informal notices to the number of 92 were served, of these 58 were complied with, 24 were followed up by the statutory notices, and 8 were not complied with. The reason for non-compliance is given on page 13.

(c) Of the 24 statutory notices issued, compliance took place in 22 cases.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Three houses, none of them Council houses, were found to be infested and were treated by fumigation by Cimex in two, and spraying with Zaldecide in the other.

Housing.

New houses built by the Council	128
New Houses built by private enterprise	148
1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	173
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	524
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	130
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	386
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	46
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	90
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	58
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	4

- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | | ... | 0 |
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | 20 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | 20 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | 0 |
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 12 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 0 |
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | nil |

CLEARANCE AREAS.

A number of houses in Factory Lane and Gladstone Road were inspected during June, 1938, and it was decided to make a formal representation to your Council that this property should be dealt with under Sec. 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. An inquiry was conducted by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health in January, 1939, and the Clearance Orders were confirmed later by the Minister of Health. These Orders involved some twenty-five houses and their clearance will be a definite contribution to public health,

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.

OVERCROWDING :

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	16
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	16
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	120
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	30
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	nil
Extent of overcrowding at end of the year :—		
	By $\frac{1}{2}$ unit	6 houses
	By 1 unit	6 houses
	By 2 units	2 houses
	By $2\frac{1}{2}$ units	1 house
	By 3 units	1 house
		—
		16
	In Council Houses	10
	Other Houses	6

CLASSIFIED STATEMENT OF DEFECTS AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED

	Recorded	Remedied
Damp walls ...	18	12
Provision of wash-up sinks ...	7	5
Defective yard paving ...	31	31
Defective floors ...	13	13
Defective roofs ...	6	6
Defective walls and ceilings ...	13	12
Conversion of pail closets to water closets ...	7	7
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	4	4
Provision of flushing apparatus	2	2
Defective water closets	6	6
Absence proper drainage	8	8
Defective and choked drains	20	20
Dirty Houses	1	1
Defective gutters and stackpipes	5	4
Insufficient lighting and ventilation	13	6
Insufficient water supply	12	12
Other nuisances	11	7
Lodging Houses	2	2
Cowsheds and dairies	2	2
Bakehouses	4	4
	185	164

The defects given above which have not been remedied by the end of the year are to be found in 10 different houses. In practically all the orders had been placed, but the work had not been completed by the end of the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Some 22 inspections of dairies and cowsheds were made and 2 informal notices were served Both were complied with.

Number of wholesalers	...	2
Number of cowkeepers	...	3
Number of retailers	...	17

Of the retailers 8 have their premises outside the borough.

Two retailers are licensed to sell grade A (T.T.) and another pasteurised milk.

(b) MEAT.

Meat inspection has been carried out regularly throughout the year and nearly all beasts killed in the slaughterhouses were fully examined. The meat stalls in the Market have been subject to regular inspection.

During the year 1049 inspections were made.
Meat condemned :—

	T.	C	Q.	L.
Bovines—18 carcasses ...	3	13	0	26
4 forequarters		5	1	2
31 heads		8	1	6
48 livers		5	0	16
Other organs and offal		16	2	6
Pigs—216 carcasses ...	16	8	3	11
3651 heads ...	24	5	0	6
Meat ...	2	3	1	2
Offal ...	28	14	1	4
Sheep—10 carcasses .		4	2	25
Offal ...			3	0
	77	5	1	20

These figures approximate closely to those of last year.

Since over 30,000 animals are killed for food annually it is not possible for the Sanitary Inspector to inspect personally every carcase. It has been possible, however, to arrange with certain of the larger firms, about whose co-operation this department has felt no doubt, for all carcasses which to an experienced dresser did not appear normal to be set aside for inspection. The figures given in the table below are evidence of this co-operation, and show

that the Sanitary Inspector is able to gain access to all carcasses of a doubtful nature.

Arrangements are made during the annual leave of Mr. French so that inspection of meat in the Borough shall be carried out by an Inspector of the Rural District Council.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	748	183	2834	29045
Number Inspected ...	656	78	949	28973
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2		10	33
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	35		24	3901
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	5.67		3.58	13.57
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	11			195
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	73			5251
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	12.8			18.79

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable diseases showed some slight diminution during the year. All cases notified have been of a sporadic nature.

No attempts at immunization against Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever have been made.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	13	11	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	8	3	1
Erysipelas	3	3	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			3					
15		2					1	
25						1		
35								
45								
55					1	1		
65 and upwards								
Totals		2	3		1	2	1	

